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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Yugoslavs in Bulgaria who support the Cominform are called "Friends of Arso Jovanovic" by their compatriots in Yugoslavia. The chiefs of the "Friends of Arso Jovanovic" are officers who had undergone Soviet training at the time of the Tito-Cominform break, and others who have escaped into Bulgaria during the last year. Yugoslav supporters of the Cominform in Bulgaria are on the watch for agents of Tito who cross the border as escapees; for reasons of security mention of names among Cominform supporters is avoided.
2. The "Friends of Arso Jovanovic" have been assigned the task of securing control of the Yugoslav Army in the event that Cominform supporters take over the Communist Party of Yugoslavia. According to one estimate, as of 20 July there were more than 300 officers, mostly Serbs and Montenegrins, in the "Friends of Arso Jovanovic". Nothing has been heard of an Arso Jovanovic Brigade and there has been no reference among the "Friends" to any plan for armed intervention originating outside Yugoslavia.
3. Two unidentified Bulgarians, who served with Tito's partisans during the war, are now in communication with the "Friends of Arso Jovanovic". Other unidentified Bulgarians, who likewise served with the partisans, are participating in the Cominform campaign against Tito.
4. Dinar funds to be smuggled into Yugoslavia from Bulgaria are secured. On one occasion in recent months it was proposed to smuggle between two and three million dinars into the country in the luggage of returning travellers.
5. Whereas Bulgaria is the collection point for Yugoslav officers supporting the Cominform, political activity against Tito is centered in Czechoslovakia. Cominform agitators are smuggled from that country into Yugoslavia, some using the cover of industrial workers returning from training. Many of these agitators, however, uncovered by the Yugoslavs. Cominform agitators endeavor to lower the morale of Yugoslav workers by calling their attention to the greater efforts necessary to accomplish the Yugoslav Five Year Plan and pointing out that the split with the Cominform makes such exertions necessary.

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